

Seattle Human Rights Commission

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 5, 2012, 6:00–8:00 p.m.
City Hall - Boards and Commissions Room

Commissioners Present: Joshua Marshall, Andrea Negrete, Mariah Ortiz, Merri Ann Osborne, Michael Plengrat, Roslyn Solomon, Christopher Stearns

Commissioners Absent: Jessica Andrade, Jesse Aspuria, Damien Carter, Nika Dahlbacka, Marsha Mavunkel, Marty Penner, Mica Powers, Greg Ramirez, Jennifer Yogi,

SOCR Staff Present: Felicia Yearwood, Michael Chin

Guest Speakers: George Pieper, Chair, King County Civil Rights Commission

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

Public Comment: Three members of the public expressed concerns about housing and homelessness issues. SOCR staff will follow up. Two individuals who are considering applying to serve on the Commission attended to observe.

Approval of Minutes: March 2012 minutes were approved as read

SOCR report: Michael Chin

- Fair Housing Accessibility First training June 6, 2012
- Appeal rules will be revised to include paid sick and safe leave, pending outcome of breastfeeding and 90-day review period legislation.

Speaker: George Pieper, Chair, [King County Civil Rights Commission](#)

- Jurisdiction includes unincorporated King County, prisons, buses, and utilities
- Community outreach often includes viewing "[Unnatural Causes](#)" episodes
- Commissioners are welcome to attend meetings, third Wednesdays 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. in the Chinook Building
- Open house April 16, 2012, 6:00 p.m. Sound Transit Board Room
- Will consider reinstating the regional civil and human rights commission meeting
- Interest in County officials participating in bias crimes forum

Committee Reports:

Executive: U.S. Department of Justice has submitted a confidential draft consent decree to the City. The community of advocates seeks broader reforms, data collection, and establishment of baseline measures due to issues of discriminatory policing.

Human Rights Analysis Tool: The full commission reviewed a draft analysis tool and provided feedback.

SHRC History Project: The committee has asked for letters from the Mayor and Council Chair.

Nominating: The committee has drafted a press release, and is seeking greater age diversity

Law and Policy Analysis: The committee has met with Councilmember Harrell regarding ways to increase opportunity for individuals with arrest and conviction records to secure employment. A proposed ordinance is being drafted and is expected to be introduced in the second quarter.

Appeals: SOCR has submitted a letter to Councilmember Burgess in response to his questions regarding establishing a uniform period for review of appeals. The appeal rules must be revised to account for that change, if it passes, as well as to incorporate review of breastfeeding and Paid Sick and Safe Leave cases.

Human Rights Day 2012: Planning Committee has good representation, including Joshua Marshall. First meeting April 10th at SOCR. Additional commissioners welcome.

Bias crimes forum: No report

Vendor code of conduct: The committee would like to propose that the City broaden its vendor code regarding apparel purchases and extend it to other purchases. A representative of the Washington Fair Trade Coalition will present at the next commission meeting.

Apartment inspection program:

MOTION: To send a letter to the City Council's Housing, Human Services, Health and Culture Committee recommending interior inspection of units, and explaining the human rights concerns evoked by substandard housing. **ACTION: PASSED**

Issue Identification and Outreach: Google document created

Right to Food Summit: Summit still planned for May; no updated information

Special Rapporteur: Letter and email sent to Hon. James Anaya. No response as of yet. Itinerary indicates stops in Oregon and Alaska.

Student Volunteers: Need to ensure that the commission has the capacity to provide a valuable experience for the students. Mariah to lead.

New Businesses

DOJ letter regarding use of race

MOTION: To join the Rights Working Group. **ACTION: PASSED**

Int'l Assn of Official Human Rights Agencies

MOTION: To join the International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies.

ACTION: PASSED

Human Rights 101, Sara Schmidt

City Council Chambers April 17th

Commissioners are encouraged to attend and invite others

Caring Across Generations

Coalition seeking endorsement. Resolution planned for second quarter. TABLED

Additional New Business

New Commission logo – TABLED

Terms of Office – TABLED

Announcements

Five Commission Meeting – May 9th, 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. SOCR

RSJI training for Commissioners in June – details TBA

Seattle Race Conference – May 12th